



Bob Graham signing his book for children

Literary guardian

The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature (NCACL) is an independent not-for-profit body that collects, preserves and shares the works of Australia's children's book writers and illustrators.

Along with finished books, we also hold manuscripts, papers, artworks and correspondence that show the development stages and creative processes behind many of our nation's most beloved children's stories.

Through these materials we gain a behind-the-scenes look at the struggles, inner workings and collaborations between authors, illustrators, publishers and book designers. Collectively, they have produced the stories that touched our hearts and stirred our imaginations as children.

This unique and nationally significant collection is the largest of its type in Australia. It includes works not held in any other library, and charts the evolution of children's literature throughout our nation's history.

Collecting

The NCACL's collection has grown over 40 years to include over 42,000 books including works translated into more than 59 languages.

It also features research files, illustrators' artwork, authors' papers and manuscripts, publishers' archives, theses, reference material, audio tapes, photographs, posters, reviews, and ephemera.

Since 1981, many publishers, authors and illustrators have donated their works to ensure that they are preserved and shared for posterity. Individual Australians and families have also donated their childhood literary treasures.

You can help

Review our website and contact us if you have:

- material that may be added to the collection
- additional information about works already in the collection
- Australian childhood stories published in another language
- an item on the NCACL wish list www.ncacl.info/collections/wishlists

Preserving

The enemies of books and paper include insects, mould, light, temperature fluctuations, metal paper clips, pins, glue, sticky tape, rubber bands, certain plastics, and correction fluid, among others.

Our NCACL experts assess the state of donated items and take preventative measures to safeguard any fragile items from these enemies. We handle and store works in line with archival best practice at our current site on the University of Canberra's Belconnen campus.



Elizabeth Honey's storyboard for 'That's not a daffodil!'

Sharing

The collection represents an important part of Australia's cultural heritage and we ensure that access to the collection is as open and wide as possible.

You can search our website for information about items in our collection and whether they are available to view. Reference staff can help find material for professional or personal research.

We regularly provide educational and public programs such as exhibitions, events, professional development, resource kits, internships and work-based learning, an e-newsletter and e-journal. We frequently showcase our collection on Facebook and share our expertise on Twitter.



Toad from *The Wind in the Willows* illustrated by Pixie O'Harris

Copyright of all illustrations for this book granted to NCACL

Support a place for Australian children's literature

Like the characters in many of the books in our collection, we have a dream.

Our dream is to have a permanent home—where people can come and explore, share and celebrate the rich imagination of authors and artists such as May Gibbs (*Snugglypot and Cuddlepipie*), Mem Fox (*Possum Magic*), Bob Graham (*A Bus Called Heaven*) among hundreds of others.

We do not have government or other direct funding yet. Our volunteer, but expert, workforce relies on donations from publishers, authors, illustrators and the generosity of the University of Canberra which currently provides us with storage, office space, various services and expertise.

Yet our centre has been successfully operating longer than any similar organisation in the world.

We want to realise the vision of our centre's founder, Lu Rees who, in 1974 started gathering Australian children's books and information about their creators to showcase our children's literature.

You can help our dream come true. Visit our website or call us to learn about donating through the Cultural Gifts Program, making a tax deductible donation, or a bequest.

*A book can change a child's life.
A children's book can change the world.*

– Jackie French AM, award-winning children's author and National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Ambassador

Opening hours

Monday: 9:00 am–5:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am–5:00 pm

Thursday: 9:00 am–5:00 pm

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CHILDREN'S
LITERATURE** Inc

Home to our
childhood stories

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